

A New Subspecies of *Catocala praegnax* WALKER from Taiwan (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae)

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Catocala praegnax was described by WALKER in 1858 from north China, and has been hitherto known to have three subspecies, *praegnax* WALKER from China, *obliterata* MÉNÉTRIÈS from Amur, and *esther* BUTLER from Japan and Ussuri (MELL, 1936).

Previously SUGI (1965) recorded one female specimen of this species from Taiwan, but he did not mention its subspecific status.

On July 2, 1970, I visited to Lushan-spa in central Taiwan and collected ten specimens of *Catocala praegnax* WALKER, and through the courtesy of Messers K. SAKAI, H. KEZUKA and M. OWADA, I could examine seven more specimens secured at Wushe, Lan-tou and Lushan-spa in central Taiwan from 1969 to 1974. These specimens are markedly different from those of the Continent and Japan, and Taiwanese population of *Catocala praegnax* are considered to represent a distinct subspecies.

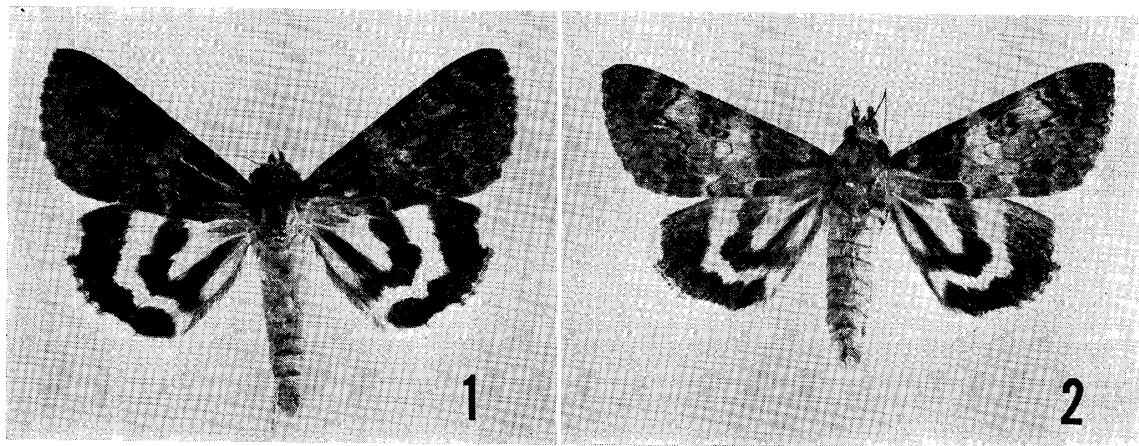
Catocala praegnax sakaii ssp. nov.

Catocala praegnax: SUGI, 1965, Tinea, 7: 90.

Similar to the other subspecies in wing patterns, but distinguished from them in the following points.

Tegula, patagia and upperside of thorax darker. On the upperside of forewing, ground colour uniformly blackish brown; median area not so whitish as in the other subspecies; double antemedian line usually indistinct, not filled up with whitish scales which are prominent in the other subspecies.

Holotype: ♂, Wushe, Nantou Hsien, Taiwan, 15 May 1971 (K. SAKAI), in coll.



Figs. 1-2. *Catocala praegnax* ssp. 1. *C. praegnax sakaii* ssp. nov., holotype. 2. *C. praegnax esther* Butler, from Japan.

National Science Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tokyo.

Paratypes: Lushan-spa, Nantou Hesien, Taiwan, 4 ♂, 6 ♀, 2 July 1970 (Y. KISHIDA), 1 ♂, 2 ♀, 15–17 June 1974 (H. KUROKO & M. OWADA); Lan-tou, Nantou Hesien, Taiwan, 1 ♂, May 1969, 1 ♂, 1 ♀, June 1970 (ex H. KEZUKA), in National Science Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tokyo, Mr. H. KEZUKA, Mr. K. ISHIZUKA, Mr. S. SUGI and my collection.

Acknowledgement

In writing this paper, I must express my hearty thanks to Mr. K. SAKAI and Mr. H. KEZUKA, Tokyo, for their kindness to give me valuable specimens. My acknowledgements are also due to Mr. S. SUGI, Tokyo, and Mr. M. OWADA, National Science Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tokyo, for their helpful advice.

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